bridge, which was sanctioned and the plans for which were approved of by the late Cardamom Superintendent, had been passed by the present Superintendent, but was not paid for by the D. P. W. on the plea that no funds had been received from the Cardamom department for this purpose. Another bridge on the main road had also been not paid for, for similar reasons.

Reply.—The Chief Engineer will be requested to see to the matter.

236. Jurisdiction of the Magistrates of the Cardamom Hills.

Mr. H. D. Deane (*Rubber Planters' Association*) said that there was some misunderstanding as to the southern boundary of the jurisdiction of the Magistrates of the Cardamom Hills and this caused great inconvenience to planters and other employers of labour. He prayed that, as a tentative measure, all the estates and lands east of the present Rani Reserve boundary as also those in the watershed of the Pulagayar, might be soon gazetted as being within the jurisdiction of the Cardamom Hills Magistrates. The District Magistrate of the Cardamom Hills now refused to take up cases from Mundakayam as he thought he had no jurisdiction over that area. He wished to remind the Government that this matter was brought up at the last session of the Assembly and Government then promised that the request would be favourably considered.

Reply.—As regards the territorial jurisdiction of the Cardamom Hills Magistrates, the matter is under consideration and will be disposed of after local inspection. In the meanwhile, Mr. Kenyon will have first class powers, and the Kanjirapalli Magistrate has already been invested with second class powers.

237. Kuttikal road.

Mr. H. D. Deane (*Rubber Planters' Association*) said that, when last year he represented the urgent necessity of opening this road and extending it to Yendar, Government promised that they would sanction the road, as prayed for. The Chief Engineer had submitted a moderate estimate and the planters were ready to commence the work at once but sanction was not accorded on account of a territorial dispute between Government and the Poonjat Chief now pending before the Alleppey District Court. To obviate this difficulty, the planters had already

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intimated Government that they would start the work on that portion of the road on which there was no dispute, employing their own capital, provided Government would reimburse them when funds became available. In addition to this, they also wrote to Government promising to indemnify them against any future loss on this account and undertaking to take a title from the Chief himself in case the dispute was settled in his favour. But in whatever way the suit might terminate, the member pleaded that the amount promised by Government should be paid as the road was absolutely necessary for the ingress and egress of about 5,000 of His Highness' subjects residing in the Hills.

Reply.—As you say, Government have decided not to spend money on the proposed road until the dispute between them and the Poonjat Chief over the tract of land along which the road was to be opened terminated in their favour. As I have already told you both orally and in writing, the willingness of the opposite party to your opening the road cannot be availed of by Government, without in some way giving room for the opinion that they admit his possession and thereby prejudicing their own interests. If you are prepared to put your capital on the construction of the road and have the same reimbursed by Government in case the present suit ends in their favour, there is no objection to your commencing the work. But as you say that you want the money back from Government in either case irrespective of the nature of the decision of the suit, the proposal cannot be easily agreed to but will have to be considered before orders are passed. In any case, the extension of the road to Yendar must lie over for the present.

238. State of the main road at Kanjirapalli.

Mr. H. D. Deane (*Rubber Planters' Association*) said that the Kanjirapalli road which was otherwise in an excellent condition was in some places in disrepair and requested that the attention of the Chief Engineer might be drawn to the matter.

Reply.—This road is being attended to. The delay in some places is due to a steam roller not being available in the locality.

239. Dispensary for Mundakayam.

Mr. H. D. Deane (*Rubber Planters' Association*) said that, even with the two private dispensaries opened by the planters, medical aid

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